

Application Serial No. 10/711,467  
Reply to Office Action dated June 19, 2006

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, it should be noted that three separate petitions for extensions of time have previously been filed in this application on September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 18<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup> respectively. However, upon each filing by the pro-se Applicant, only the \$60.00 one month fee was authorized and apparently charged. Therefore, the enclosed petition provides the requisite, additional government fees needed in connection with extending the response time in this application.

In the outstanding Office Action dated June 19, 2006, the Examiner set forth a number of objections and rejections to the claims filed in connection with the above-identified U.S. patent application. That is, the Examiner initially rejected claims 1, 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner also presented several rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) indicating that the claims are anticipated by various prior references. With respect to the art rejections, it should be noted that the Office Action actually indicates that claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) at the beginning of each of sections 4, 5 and 6, while the body of the rejections refer to claims 1, 3 and 4.

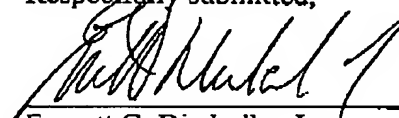
Regardless of the above-noted discrepancy, by the present amendment, the Applicant has canceled all of the originally filed claims and added new claims 9-13, without the introduction of any new matter. The Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims are patentable over the prior art of record, at least because none of the prior art of record teaches extracting a mini core sample by inserting a piston into a cylinder that has been previously inserted into a core sample as claimed. More specifically, in accordance with the present invention, a cylinder is inserted to a desired depth into a drill cutting sample. After the cylinder has been inserted, a piston is inserted into the cylinder. Once the piston is properly positioned, the piston is withdrawn to create a vacuum in the cylinder. The cylinder and the contained mini core can then be removed from the drill cutting sample and ejected for analysis. The Applicant respectfully submits that none of

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the prior art of record case teaches this claimed invention, particularly inserting the piston after the cylinder has been inserted to a desired depth in the cutting sample.

Based on the above remarks and amendments to the claims, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably defined over the prior art of record such that allowance of all claims and passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any additional questions or concerns regarding this matter, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below in order to further prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 19, 2006  
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